

# Preparedness: The Path to Safety



**Community Preparedness & Response**

**Oakland Community  
Preparedness & Response  
Program Workshop – Part 2**

# Workshop Agenda – **Part 2**

- ✓ **Harden Your Home Against Wildfire and Earthquake**
- ✓ **Become Firewise USA® Certified**

# Why Embers are Dangerous!

Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety



# Harden Your Home Against Wildfire

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## Embers, radiant heat and direct flame contact will ignite structures!

- Clear combustibles to create 5' of defensible space around your structure
- Limb tree branches 6' or more up from ground level
- Install vent screens to prevent embers from entering
- Remove flammables on or under porches and decks
- Ensure roof is Class A rated, double-paned windows recommended



Regularly clean roofs and gutters!

# Harden Your Home Against Earthquake

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## Minimize hazards inside and outside your home!

- Secure appliances, bookshelves, hot water heater, etc.
- Install safety latches on cabinets
- Ensure porches and decks are secured to the house
- Have chimneys frequently cleaned and inspected
- Consider installing an Auto (Seismic) Gas Shutoff Valve
- Have your home inspected by a contractor or engineer certified in seismic work and consider recommended seismic upgrades



Photo: Joe Pugliese / Los Angeles Times

Firewise USA®



# Become Firewise USA® Certified

- National Fire Protection Association program
- Encourages neighbors to work together on wildfire safety
- May help retain insurance and some companies give a discount
- Becoming a Firewise USA® site is a straight-forward process:
  1. Form small committee, create neighborhood assessment and action plan
  2. Neighbors invest one volunteer hour per home per year on average
  3. Report efforts back to the Firewise USA® program
- [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)



**FIREWISE USA®**  
Residents reducing wildfire risks

# In Summary

Prepare your home or building as best as you can against wildfire and earthquake damage

Take preparedness steps one at a time

Anything you do, you are better off than before

Review the OCP&R Guides on the Web site

Reach out to OCP&R with any questions

# Contact Us

## Oakland Community Preparedness & Response

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